



All correspondence to be addressed to:
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21 July 2021

Standing Committee on Public Administration's inquiry into the delivery of ambulance services in WA

Attention: Hon Pierre Yang Committee Chairperson

Submitted via email lcpac@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Hon Mr Pierre Yang

Shire of Kulin submission to the Standing Committee on Public Administration's inquiry into the delivery of ambulance services in WA

The following constitutes the Shire of Kulin submission to the Standing Committee on Public Administration's inquiry into the delivery of ambulance services in WA. Currently the community of Kulin is serviced by the Kulin St John Ambulance Sub-Centre, as well as sub-centres at nearby Kondinin and Harrismith. They generally provide emergency services and patient transfer to WACHS hospitals at either Kondinin or Narrogin, depending upon circumstance.

The Shire of Kulin would like to make the following points regarding any potential changes to the operation of ambulance services, particularly within regional WA.

a) how 000 ambulance calls are received, assessed, prioritised and despatched in the metropolitan area and in the regions.

- Currently the 000 call service works well within the regions with calls being directed directly to representatives from local St John Ambulance Sub-Centre.
- Where required 000 calls are also directed to other Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) organisations such as WA Police, local Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) as well as the Shire to coordinate emergency management situations.
- The current system works well for regional WA.

b) the efficiency and adequacy of the service delivery model of ambulance services in metropolitan and regional areas of Western Australia

- Existing services in regional WA are delivered via local St John Ambulance Sub-Centres largely consisting of appropriately trained volunteers from the local community.
- This service is complimented via a region wide paramedic, as well as local WACHS hospitals, and our community's Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC), all organisations work collaboratively together.
- Local volunteers have a good understanding of locations around the district when attending emergencies, providing valuable efficiencies in delivery of service.
- Local volunteers are trusted by the community and provide a familiar and supportive face around the district when attending emergencies.
- Local volunteers and the wider community work together to raise funds to keep the local sub-centre operational, taking in pride in operating and delivering this service for the benefit of the community and visitors.



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c) whether alternative service delivery models in other jurisdictions would better meet the needs of the community

- Currently there is limited information as to what other delivery models would like and this poses uncertainty and anxiety for people in regional areas.
- If ambulance services were to be delivered by the Department of Health or WACHS via an increased number of community career paramedics, this would pose a significant additional cost to WA tax payers.
- Having a significant number of career paramedics with a lot of idle time poses an inefficient and expensive delivery service model, and there is no guarantee that there will be sufficient paramedics available at any one time.
- Whilst career paramedics may have additional training, they do not have the local understanding of local conditions, locations and landscape that local volunteers do and do not have the existing rapport with the local communities.
- There is concern that under a new model the ambulance sub-centres may be rationalised to locations where WACHS has a hospital, thereby reducing existing services within the region.

d) any other matters considered relevant by the Committee.

- Currently the delivery of ambulance service in regional WA via volunteers from local sub-centres provides a relatively inexpensive delivery model, how would an alternative service be funded.
- Local sub-centres have raised a significant portion of funds that are reinvested in these local sub-centres and hence the local community.
- There is concern this existing funding reserve will be taken away from local sub-centres and distributed to other areas for short term use without consideration for appropriate long term investment.
- Delivery of service in metropolitan and regional WA may require different delivery models, due to differences in population, distances travelled, number of hospitals and coordination with emergency departments, which is currently the case.

The Shire of Kulin requests that these points be considered when investigating the delivery of ambulance services in WA. It requests further direct consultation with local government, our LEMC and local St John Ambulance Sub-Centre Committee.

We see the Kulin St John Ambulance Sub-Centre run by local Kulin volunteers as a vital component of our community, providing an essential service.

Yours sincerely

Barry West
President

Garrick Yandle
Chief Executive Officer